

UNDERSTANDING SAFETY PERFORMANCE AMONG MEDICAL LABORATORY STAFF

By

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to investigate the affections of five facets of Work Safety Scale (WSS) on compliance safety behaviour and what can these safety perception measurements contribute to the medical laboratory staff behaviours. This survey was done among 139 respondents in a teaching hospital in Kuala Lumpur by using the tool developed by Hayes et al (1998) that measured the safety perceptions of job safety, co-worker safety, supervisor safety, management safety and satisfaction of safety programme towards compliance safety behaviour. All the results of measurement were then being analysed statistically with descriptive frequencies on demography, reliability tests on internal consistency, correlations and regressions analysis. The findings indicated that the most significant facets were co-worker safety, job safety and satisfaction on safety programme that might contributed towards safety behaviour. Supervisory safety was the rejected facet in the perception measurements as it depicted in negative significant results. These results could be related to the demographic measurements upon age, job area and level of educations. Further suggestions were discussed according to the findings to complete the conclusions and recommendations.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini dijalankan bertujuan untuk mengkaji kesan lima cabang Skala Keselamatan Pekerjaan ke atas kepatuhan perlakuan keselamatan dan seterusnya melihat kepada sumbangan hasil pengukuran daripada kajian tentang tanggapan keselamatan ini menjurus kepada perlakuan sekumpulan kakitangan makmal perubatan. Kajian ini telah dijalankan ke atas seramai 139 orang responden di sebuah hospital pengajaran di Kuala Lumpur dengan menggunakan soal selidik oleh Hayes dan lain-lain (1998) bagi mengkaji tentang tanggapan mereka terhadap keselamatan pekerjaan, keselamatan rakan sekerja, penyeliaan keselamatan, praktis keselamatan oleh pengurusan dan kepuasan terhadap program keselamatan yang seterusnya boleh memberi natijah kepada kepatuhan perlakuan keselamatan. Kesemua keputusan kajian ini dicerna dengan menggunakan kaedah analisis statistik seperti perincian frekuensi untuk maklumat demografi, ujian reliabiliti bagi konsistensi dalaman serta analisis korelasi dan regresi. Penemuan daripada kajian ini mendapati cabang keselamatan yang paling signifikan ialah keselamatan rakan sekerja, keselamatan pekerjaan dan kepuasan terhadap program keselamatan. Penyeliaan keselamatan didapati ditolak oleh hasil pengukuran ini dengan keputusan signifikan yang negatif. Segala keputusan daripada penemuan ini boleh dikaitkan dengan pengukuran demografi bagi umur, bidang tugas dan kelulusan akademik. Cadangan kajian akan dibincangkan seterusnya untuk pengemukaan penemuan dan kesimpulan bagi melengkapkan pengkajian ini.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

A laboratory staff might be exposed to hazardous chemicals that can enter the body through absorption on the eyes and skin, inhalation via respiratory and ingestion in the digestive system. (Waxman, 1992) They are also fragile to infections via certain work practices such as recapping, transferring a body fluid between containers and failing to properly dispose of used needles in puncture-resistant sharps container. This is because blood sample taking procedures are also being done in the lab by the laboratory technologies for certain blood and body fluids testing such as urinalysis and ordinary glucose tests.

Previous studies on accident prevention and industrial safety shows that 88 percent of industrial accidents originate from human factors (Goetsch, 2002). This is to mention that even though accidents and hazards in workplace able to be anticipated or assumed on causes of events, human factors is something that is unpredictable and contributes to the behavioural causes to technological failures which is now widely called “human error”. (Ali, Abdullah and Subramaniam, 2009)

In the year 2006, the former Deputy Prime Minister at that time, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had addressed in his speech on a report from SOCSO

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